

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-3, 10-12, 19-21, and 28-31 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

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Group 2600

1. (CANCELLED)

2. (CANCELLED)

3. (CANCELLED)

4. A method for controlling customer resources for network traffic delivery, comprising:
[The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of:]
tracking network utilization of a group of endpoints on a network to generate group utilization level information corresponding to a current amount of network resource consumption by the group;
receiving a message corresponding to a request for network resources for a data flow for one of the endpoints, the request including an identifier associated with the one endpoint and being from one of a router and a packet switch, associated with the one endpoint, said one of the router and the packet switch is a policy enforcement point (PEP);
determining whether the request is accepted based on the group utilization level information, the identifier, and a predetermined profile, the predetermined profile being associated with the group and including a network utilization limit;
forwarding to said one of the router and the packet switch the result of the decision whether to accept the request; and
performing the steps of tracking, receiving, and determining on a server that forms a policy decision point independent of said PEP.

(AMENDED) 5. The method of claim [1] 4, wherein the step of determining comprises the step of:
applying a policy rule, using the group utilization level information, the identifier, and the predetermined profile to determine whether the group exceeds the network utilization limit.

1 (AMENDED) 7. The method of claim [1] 4, wherein the group is associated with a reserved
2 bandwidth service logical access port (RLAP) and the method further comprises the steps of:
3 tracking network utilization of the RLAP, the RLAP including the one endpoint to
4 generate RLAP utilization level information corresponding to a current amount of network
5 resource consumption by the RLAP; and
6 wherein the step of determining comprises the step of:
7 determining whether the request is to be accepted based on the RLAP utilization level
8 information and another predetermined profile that is associated with the group, includes a
9 corresponding network utilization limit.

1 (AMENDED) 8. The method of claim [1] 4, further comprising the step of:
2 adjusting the group utilization level information, when the request is accepted, to reflect
3 the installment of the request and the corresponding increase in network resources consumption.

1 10. (CANCELLED)

1 11. (CANCELLED)

1 12. (CANCELLED)

1 13. A system for controlling customer resources for network traffic delivery,
2 comprising:

3 [The system of claim 12, further comprising:]

4 means for tracking network utilization of a group of endpoints on a network to
5 generate group utilization level information corresponding to a current amount of network
6 resource consumption by the group;

7 means for receiving a message corresponding to a request for network resources for
8 a data flow for one of the endpoints, the request including an identifier associated with the
9 one endpoint and being from one of a router and a packet switch associated with the one
10 endpoint, said one of the router and the packet switch is a policy enforcement point (PEP);

11 means for determining whether the request is to be accepted based on the group
12 utilization level information, the identifier, and a predetermined profile, the predetermined
13 profile being associated with the group and including a network utilization limit;

14 means for forwarding to said one of the router and the packet switch the result of
15 the decision whether to accept the request; and

16 a server forming a policy decision point independent of said PEP, said server including
17 the means for tracking, the means for receiving, and the means for determining.

1 (AMENDED) 14. The system of claim [10]13, wherein the means for determining
2 comprises:

3 means for applying a policy rule, using the group utilization level information, the
4 identifier, and the predetermined profile to determine whether the group exceeds the network
5 utilization limit.

1 (AMENDED) 16. The system of claim [10]13, wherein the group is associated with a
2 reserved bandwidth service logical access port (RLAP), said RLAP including the group; and
3 wherein the system further comprises:

4 means for tracking network utilization of the RLAP, the RLAP including the one
5 endpoint to generate RLAP utilization level information corresponding to a current amount of
6 network resource consumption by the RLAP; and

7 wherein the means for determining further comprises:

8 means for determining whether the request is to be accepted based on the RLAP
9 utilization level information and another predetermined profile that is associated with the group
10 includes a corresponding network utilization limit.

1 (AMENDED) 17. The system of claim [10] 13, further comprising:

2 means for adjusting the group utilization level information, when the request is accepted,
3 to reflect the installment of the request and the corresponding increase in network resources
4 consumption.

1 19. (CANCELLED)

1 20. (CANCELLED)

1 21. (CANCELLED)

1 22. A computer readable medium storing program instructions for execution on a
2 computer system, which when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform the
3 steps of:

4 [The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein the computer readable
5 medium further comprises program instructions for]
6 tracking network utilization of a group of endpoints on a network to generate group
7 utilization level information corresponding to a current amount of network resource
8 consumption by the group;
9 receiving a message corresponding to a request for network resources for a data
10 flow for one of the endpoints, the request including an identifier associated with the one
11 endpoint and being from one of a router and a packet switch associated with the one
12 endpoint, said one of the router and the packet switch is a policy enforcement point (PEP);
13 determining whether the request is to be accepted based on the group utilization
14 level information, the identifier, and a predetermined profile, the predetermined profile
15 being associated with the group and including a network utilization limit;
16 forwarding to the router the result of the decision whether to accept the request;
17 and
18 causing the computer to form a policy decision point independent of said PEP.

1 (AMENDED) 23. The computer readable medium of claim [19] 22, wherein the step of
2 determining comprises the step of:
3 applying a policy rule, using the group utilization level information, the identifier, and the
4 predetermined profile to determine whether the group exceeds the network utilization limit.

1 (AMENDED) 25. The computer readable medium of claim [19] 22, wherein the group is
2 associated with a reserved bandwidth service logical access port (RLAP), and the computer
3 readable medium further includes program instructions for causing the computer to perform the
4 step of:

5 tracking network utilization of the RLAP, the RLAP including the endpoint to generate
6 RLAP utilization level information corresponding to a current amount of network resource
7 consumption by the RLAP; and wherein step of determining comprises the step of:

8 determining whether the request is to be accepted based on the RLAP utilization level
9 information and another predetermined profile that is associated with the group includes a
10 corresponding network utilization limit.

1 (AMENDED) 26. The computer readable medium of claim [19] 22, wherein the computer
2 readable medium further includes program instructions for causing the computer to perform the
3 step of:

4 adjusting the group utilization level information, when the request is accepted, to reflect
5 the installment of the request and the corresponding increase in network resources consumption.

1 28. (CANCELLED)

1 29. (CANCELLED)

1 30. (CANCELLED)

1 31. (CANCELLED)